



Plant Tissue Sampling for Blueberry

For predictive (routine) testing, sample plants after fruiting when leaves are fully mature.

How: Collect 1–2 leaves per bush from 30 –40 bushes; 30 -50 leaves total or about two fistfulls. Collect mature leaves from mid-portion of current season's growth.

Specify Growth Stage: Fruiting (F) or Mature (M)—1st 2 weeks after harvest

Plant part: Collect Most Recent Mature Leaves (MRML) from mid-shoot area. MRMLs are neither young and shiny nor old and dull. About the 4-5th leaf down from the terminal bud.



Most Recent
Mature Leaf
(MRML)

Tips

- Fill out the Plant Sample Information Form as completely as possible. The more information you provide, the more precise your recommendations will be.
- Specify the **growth stage** and whether your sample is **Predictive** (routine) or **Diagnostic** (troubleshooting). For diagnostic testing, submit a plant sample and a corresponding soil sample from both a “good” (healthy) and “bad” (unhealthy) area.
- Use paper bags for storing and mailing. Don’t put your leaves in a plastic bag. They will rot.

Standard analysis includes: nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, and boron.

Fees: \$5 per sample for N.C. growers (\$25 for out-of-state; \$12 for N.C. researchers).

Turnaround time: 2 days from receipt.

Send samples to: N.C.D.A. & C.S. Agronomic Services—Plant Lab

Mailing address:

1040 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

Physical address:

4300 Reedy Creek Rd, Raleigh NC 27607

Phone: (919) 733-2655

For more detailed information, go to the Plant Tissue Analysis page at [www.ncagr.gov /agronomi](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi) or contact the regional agronomist for your area.